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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,077	11/25/2003	Jong Seok Kim	0465-1081P	4939

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EXAMINER

HECKERT, JASON MARK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1746

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/720,077

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Examiner

Jason Heckert

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1-3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ryan et al.

Ryan et al. discloses a drum type washing machine comprising a cabinet 16, a tub 14, and a clothesbasket 12 that is equivalent to the drum of the claimed invention.

Rotational shafts 24 and 26 penetrate into the tub and are coupled with each side of the clothesbasket, thereby making at least one coupled with the rear. A motor (col. 3 line 2) drives the shafts. Suspension subassemblies 18 and 20 are included to prevent vibrations and consist of piston 48 and cylinder 44. As depicted in Figure 1, the piston rod 46 is coupled with the cabinet and the cylinder is coupled with the tub.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 5-7, 9-11 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan et al. As described in paragraph 2 above, Ryan et al. already teaches claim 1 of

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the claimed invention. However, they do not disclose arranging the dampening device in the specific fashion of claim 5. Rearrangement of parts was held to have been obvious. *In Re Japikse* 86 USPQ 70 (CCPA 1950). Ryan et al. already discloses multiple dampers, and it would have been obvious to arrange them in whatever fashion yields the most efficient dampening effect.

5. In regards to claim 6 - 7 and 10 - 11, Ryan et al. already discloses said features as described in paragraph 2 above. It would have been obvious to include said features along with any arrangement of dampeners in order to have a functional apparatus with efficient dampening means.

6. Claim 4, 8, 12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan et al. in view of Durazzani et al. Ryan et al. does disclose dampers, as described above, but does not state that they are hinge-coupled to the cabinet and tub. Hinges, joints, swivels, etc. are common in the art and are not considered novel. Durazzani et al. discloses hinge assemblies 32 and 34 that support the cylinders 30 thereby increasing dampening ability. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Ryan et al. and include a hinge or joint assembly to fixate the dampener to the tub and cabinet for increased dampening ability.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

8. U.S. Patent 5,207,081 to Fuse. Fuse discloses a washing machine with hinged dampers located in a variety of positions.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Heckert whose telephone number is (571) 272-2702. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Friday, 8:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571)272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JMH 9/14/06

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Barr', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER